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E. German Court Told Of Scheme for Defection

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Reuters

EAST BERLIN, Aug. 6 — A German accused of acting as a Western secret agent told a court here today of a plan to fly 40 persons over the Berlin wall to the West in an East German airliner with the pilot held at pistol-point.

Persons who wanted to get to the West were to book on the same flight of Interflug, the East German airline, from Leipzig Fair to East Berlin. Werner Baecker told the East German High Court.

Baecker, 29, one of three Germans on trial, said he had been offered 10,000 marks (about \$2500) to act as "killer on duty" in the airliner by two men who ran an organization in West Berlin for getting people to the West.

The plan was to shoot the co-pilot in the legs during the flight and order the pilot not to land in East Berlin, but instead to fly over the wall and land in West Berlin. Baecker told the court.

If the pilot refused he was to be "put out of action" and

another man would take over the plane. But, Baecker added, "I told them I would not have anything to do with armed actions."

Baecker said he left East Germany to go to the West at the age of 12 in 1950. He began working for the escape organization—described by the prosecution as a terror organization directed by the American and West German secret services—to make money when he ran into debt.

He was arrested in Bulgaria in June trying to smuggle an East German scientist and his wife across the border to Turkey in secret compartments in a car.

The men he worked for had the compartments built into the car in Istanbul—one in the fender above the right wheel and one between the back seat and the trunk.

At the border the woman was found immediately but it took the border guards half an hour to find her husband inside the fender.